



A Program with the  
Colorado Attorney General  
and the AARP Foundation



Colorado Attorney General  
John W. Suthers



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# Stolen Futures

Years ago, conversations about our grandchildren's identities most likely involved sewing name tags in their clothes before they headed off for summer camp. Times have changed, and child identity theft is a growing trend.

A thief could use a child's information to get a job, government benefits, medical care, utilities, car loans, or a mortgage. Avoiding, discovering, and undoing the damage from the theft of a child's identity can be a challenge.

Some tips to keep in mind:

- Make sure children understand the notion of personal/private information and how to safeguard it.
- Your computer can hold enormous amounts of information, so it's crucial that young Internet users keep that information secure. Use appropriate Internet privacy settings, talk to the children about protecting passwords, and build their awareness of phishing scams and other online hazards.
- Shred letters, forms, and other papers that include the child's personal information before throwing them out. Delete electronic computer files you no longer need.
- Consider "freezing" the child's credit or, just as you monitor your own credit rating for signs of misuse, determine whether the youngster has a credit report, review it periodically, and take appropriate action.

A thief who steals a child's identity can use it for years before the crime is detected, so protect your children's future today.

*Prevent Financial Elder Abuse!*

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